



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-05-9

PSC APPROVES AGREEMENT GRANTING SUSPENSION OF LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY IMPLEMENTATION FOR THREE COMPANIES

Jefferson City (July 22, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved an agreement involving three Missouri telephone companies seeking a suspension of requirements to implement local number portability (LNP) in their service areas. The agreement approved by the Commission grants the suspension until November 24, 2004. The agreement also grants modifications regarding call rating and routing issues.

New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company and Stoutland Telephone Company sought the suspension to further review equipment needs and costs associated with providing LNP as required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

These companies will need to determine whether to upgrade or replace their current switches in order to make them LNP-capable.

Under LNP, a customer would be able to take their land line telephone number to a wireless carrier.

The Commission noted in its order: "Petitioners' facilities are not LNP-capable. Therefore, implementing wireline-to-wireless LNP will require Petitioners to incur costly implementation expenses and will result in substantial ongoing costs. Petitioners seek suspension in order to analyze the costs and benefits of switch upgrades versus switch replacements." Parties to the agreement also stated that suspension would ensure that subscribers are not forced to bear the costs for something from which they are unlikely to benefit.

The Commission stated that granting the suspension and modification is consistent with federal law in that "it is necessary to avoid a significant adverse economic impact on users of telecommunications services generally and to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome".

The agreement approved by the Commission was submitted by the three telephone companies, the Office of the Public Counsel and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

---0---